



FOR A DAILY WAGE

Study reveals govt initiative aimed at providing land to Dalit women has improved incomes but has not freed beneficiaries from dependence on daily wage work

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HOT CROSS ONES

As both maximum and minimum temperatures average 2-3°C above normal in city, the weatherman predicts dry conditions to persist for a while more

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Conmen strike when demand for IPL tickets is hot; many in city duped by 'exciting deals' offered through WhatsApp messages or on dubious websites that look too close to the real thing

THIS IPL SEASON, DON'T GET CLEAN BOWLED

In one case, accused posed as official from the stadium

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With excitement building for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 24, city police officials have issued an advisory cautioning cricket fans against ticket scams.

According to police officials, fraudsters are taking advantage of the high demand for match tickets by targeting unsuspecting fans on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Telegram and other websites.

The scammers are reportedly creating fake profiles, impersonating authorised ticket sellers, and even designing lookalike websites to deceive buyers.

A senior police official said that many fraudsters lure victims by advertising the last few tickets available or offering passes at discounted rates to create urgency. Once a payment is made through UPI or bank transfer, the scammers either send



“ Tickets should be purchased only through the authorised official website. Stay alert to fake websites and avoid fraudulent messages circulated via Instagram and WhatsApp

—Raja Imam Kasim P, DCF

—Raja Imam Kasim P, DCP

fake tickets or stop responding altogether, leaving fans cheated. However, DCP Raja Imam Kasim P advised that tickets should be purchased only through author-

ised official websites, warning that fake websites and fraudulent messages circulated via Instagram and WhatsApp must be avoided.

Recently, a woman was allegedly cheated of ₹52,500 by unidentified persons who promised IPL match tickets but failed to

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Sankey Tank is drying up

Environmentalists, citizens raise alarm over depleting water level, degradation of Bengaluru's most beloved landmark



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Water levels at Sankey Tank are declining at an alarming rate, raising serious concerns among residents and environmental stakeholders. The residents said that the lake, once a defining landmark and a source of pride for the Sadashivanagar community, now faces the risk of significant degradation if immediate steps are not taken.

They said that despite a steady increase in footfall — with residents and visitors frequenting the lake for daily exercise and weekend recreation — the water levels continue to recede visibly.

The community members attribute the depletion to a combination of factors, including rapid urbanisation, a breach, reduced rainfall, and increasing pollution. Without timely and coordinated intervention, there is a real danger of losing this vital and pristine urban ecosystem, they warned.

The Sadashivanagar Residents Welfare Association called upon the civic authorities to initiate immediate remedial measures aimed at restoring and preserving the lake. The association suggested that key actions may include sustainable water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Classical celebration

Rasanubhava is a classical dance festival that celebrates the journey from Rasa (emotion) to Bhava (expression), bringing together extraordinary artists and the timeless traditions of Indian performing arts on one stage. **Where:** Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; **When:** April 25, 5 pm

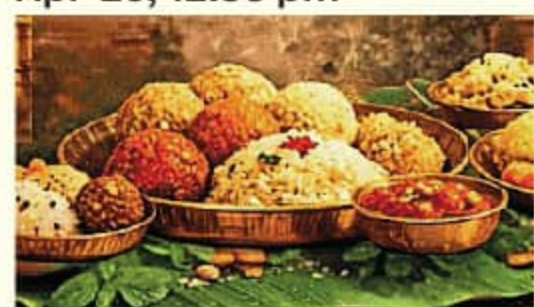


02 Adventure awaits

Career Compass, in association with Laughing Elephants, presents an unforgettable outdoor summer camp amidst the tranquil Sharavati backwaters near Jog Falls. Designed for children and teenagers aged 10 to 18, the camp offers opportunities to explore nature and build new skills. **Those interested can contact for registration: +91 98450 47991; When:** Until April 23, May 7 to 21, June 11 to 25

03 Taste of tradition

Atta Galatta is presenting Divine Delicacies, a unique experience where samples of prasadam from various temples will be served along with the stories of places of worship and the perceived food preferences of the divine. **Where:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; **When:** Apr 26, 12.30 pm



04 Musical voyage

Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj — a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. **Where:** Phoenix Marketcity; **When:** May 30, 7 pm

05 Immersive experience

Created by acclaimed director and composer Kevin Oliver and presented in support of the Kempegowda International Airport Foundation (KIAF), Odyssey of Love is a contemporary pop opera blending music, fashion and storytelling into a visually rich and immersive spectacle. **Where:** Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; **When:** May 7

Land scheme that didn't land quite right

Assessment of Bhoo Odetana scheme finds that beneficiaries still remain economically vulnerable, with some women also reporting lack of genuine financial independence

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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A government initiative aimed at providing land to Dalit women in Karnataka has improved incomes but has not fully freed beneficiaries from dependence on daily wage work, according to a recent evaluation.

The assessment of the Bhoo Odetana scheme found that close to six in ten women who received land titles still take up agricultural labour on others' farms to make ends meet. The study, carried out by TransRural Consulting for the Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority (KMEA), examined the scheme's rollout between 2020-21 and 2024-25. During this period, 11,039 applications were submitted, but only 2,270 applicants were allotted land, indicating significant implementation gaps.

Although land ownership brought some financial relief, most participants continued to come from economically vulnerable households. Monthly earnings, which were previously under Rs 5,000, rose to between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 after acquiring land. Even so, 58.76 per cent of respondents said they continued to rely on wage labour, pointing to persistent insecurity in livelihoods.

"This suggests that while beneficiaries have gained land ownership through the scheme, their



Land acquisition is reportedly a major challenge with rising land prices, legal complications and limited availability of cultivable land near villages

small landholdings and lower productivity still compel them to seek supplementary wage employment," the report observed.

The study emphasised that simply transferring land is not sufficient to ensure sustainable income. It called for additional measures to improve productivity and reduce reliance on external labour. "This evidence reinforces the need for productivity-enhancing interventions (such as irrigation, soil fertility improvement and crop diversification) and convergence with allied livelihood schemes to reduce dependence on wage labour and ensure that land ownership translates into sustainable liveli-

hood security," the report stated.

On the question of empowerment, the findings were mixed. A significant 93.8 per cent of women said owning land had strengthened their participation in household financial decisions. However, only 64.4 per cent felt they had achieved genuine financial independence.

"On one hand, land ownership has clearly given women greater voice and participation in decision-making processes within the household, signifying enhanced social recognition and bargaining power. On the other hand, a smaller proportion feel truly financially independent, suggesting that control over

resources and income flows remains limited in several cases," the study noted.

The report also identified administrative and structural challenges affecting the scheme's implementation. In districts such as Raichur and Yadgir, delays in banking processes—including account creation, loan approvals and subsidy disbursement—slowed progress. In contrast, smoother coordination with district banking committees in places like Haveri and Kolar helped ensure better outcomes.

Access to credit remains a major concern, as many beneficiaries are first-time borrowers without collateral, making financial institutions cautious despite government support.

As per evaluation, although land ownership brought some relief, beneficiaries still have to take up agricultural labour on others' farms to make ends meet

Land acquisition has proven to be another obstacle. In districts including Chikkaballapura and Shivamogga, as well as parts of Kolar, rising land prices, legal complications and limited availability of cultivable land near villages have made it difficult to purchase farmland. The situation is particularly challenging in peri-urban areas, where agricultural land is increasingly being diverted for other uses.

Akshaya Tritiya sees trade worth over ₹20,000 crore

Despite soaring gold and silver prices, Akshaya Tritiya witnessed robust buying across South India, with total transactions estimated at around Rs 20,000 crore, including Rs 2,500 crore in Karnataka alone. The festival, spread over two days this year and coinciding with a weekend, boosted footfall and sales. While the value of purchases increased due to higher prices, the actual volume of gold bought saw a decline compared to last year. Industry estimates suggest that nearly 200 tonnes of gold and 1,000 tonnes of silver were sold across the region during



the two days. While wedding-related purchases continued to drive demand for heavier jewellery, most buyers preferred lighter items such as coins, pendants and rings due to rising prices. Many customers also opted to start gold savings schemes, planning purchases for the next Akshaya Tritiya. Trade bodies noted that festive sentiment remained strong despite global uncertainties, reflecting the continued cultural and financial significance of gold buying on the occasion.

— BMB



Duty in action

A team of police personnel push a broken-down KSRTC bus at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Census work stalls as thousands miss duty

Census operations across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area are facing serious disruption due to large-scale absenteeism among field staff, prompting officials to issue strict warnings. With nearly 6,000 enumerators and supervisors reportedly absent without authorisation, the progress of the census has slowed significantly, raising concerns over timely completion.

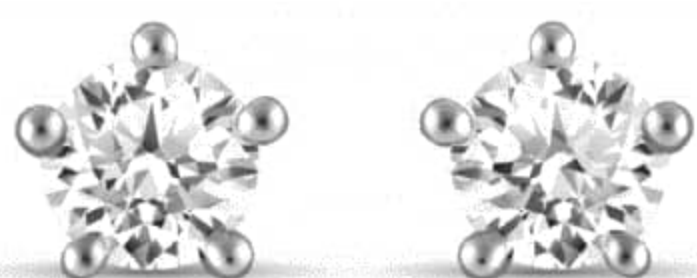
According to official data from GBA, out of a total of 23,500 enumerators and 2,900 supervisors deployed for the exercise, a substantial number have failed to report for duty. Authorities have begun issuing show-cause notices and are send-



ing daily reminders through SMS and calls. Officials have made it clear that those who do not resume work immediately will face disciplinary action, including No Work No Pay, break-in-service orders and even FIRs in severe cases. Commissioners of the five city corporations have set April 24, 2026, as the deadline for absentees to return to duty, failing which strict action will be initiated.

— BMB

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B'luru lake breach: Illegal STP draws swift action

Routine lake inspection uncovers illegal sewage treatment plant, prompting Pollution Control Board to issue notice to Bengaluru authority for violations



Board directs officials to apply for approvals within seven days

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued a notice to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) for establishing a sewage treatment plant at one of its lakes in East Bengaluru without obtaining the required permission from the Board.

As per the notice, GBA Mahadevpura Division has established a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at

Doddakannelli Lake bund in Doddakannelli village near Sarjapura without obtaining Consent for Establishment (CFE) and Consent for Operation (CFO) of the Board, both of which are mandatory under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

KSPCB learned about the STP during a lake inspection conducted earlier this month. Through the notice, the Board has instructed GBA officers to obtain the required CFE and CFO at the earliest.

"In view of the aforementioned facts, take this notice to apply for

Under Sections 25 and 26, prior consent from the State Pollution Control Board is mandatory to establish or operate any system likely to discharge sewage into water bodies or land

CFE and CFO through XGN software for the consent of the Board, along with such necessary documents prescribed within seven days from the

date of issue of this notice," KSPCB has instructed GBA.

The Board, in the notice, has noted that establishing and operating the Sewage Treatment Plant, which is likely to discharge sewage effluent and emissions into the environment, amounts to a gross violation of Sections 25 and 26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Under Sections 25 and 26 of the Act, no one, without prior consent for establishment or consent for operation of the State Pollution Control Board, can establish or take steps to establish any sewage treatment plant, process, or disposal system likely to discharge sewage into a stream, well, sewer, or on land.

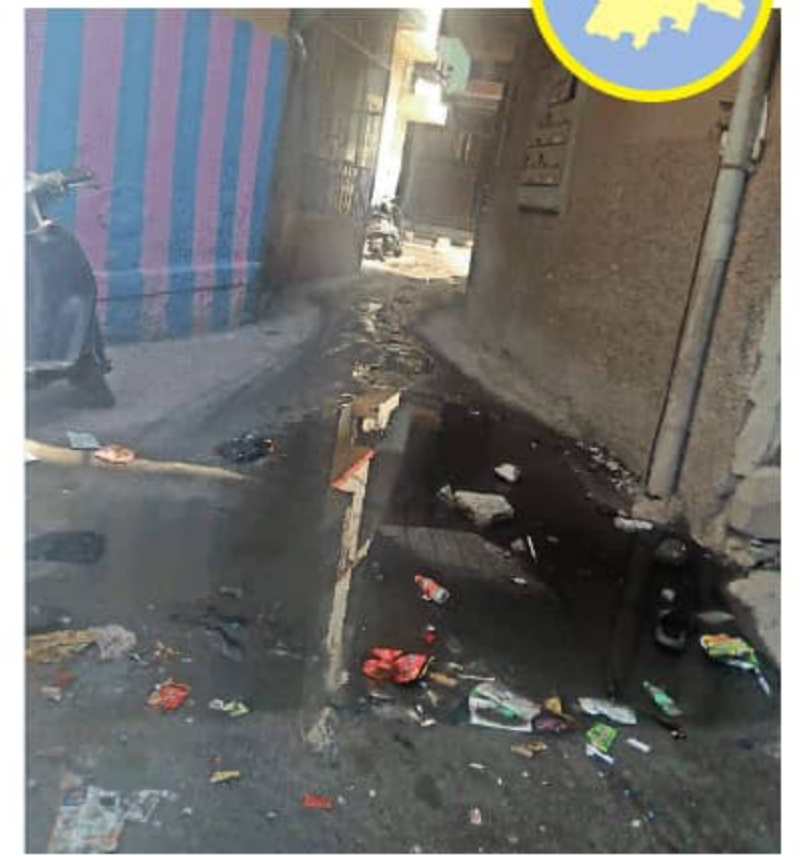
Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act attracts penal action under Section 44 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It states that whoever fails to comply will be liable for imprisonment for a term not less than one year and six months and which may extend up to six years, along with a fine. KSPCB inspected Doddakannelli Lake a few days ago and found that the lake is fenced and the water quality is clear. No sewage entry into the lake was detected, and the civil tanks of the STP at the north-east corner of the lake were found to be completed. Accessories related to the STP were stored in one of the rooms, and the STP was not in operation.

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Drain crisis

Shivajinagar



Residents of Brasha Street, Nerupuram, and Seppings Road in Shivajinagar report frequent drainage blockages causing unhygienic conditions and infections among children, alleging inaction despite repeated complaints.

Garbage fire

Cox Town



Toxic smoke engulfed Cox Town after garbage was set on fire at a BBMP yard next to a public clubhouse, leaving residents troubled throughout the day.

Garbage fires turn Anjanapura into toxic death trap

Residents in Anjanapura Layout are struggling with constant garbage dumping and frequent fires, while repeated complaints continue to go unanswered by authorities

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Anjanapura Layout, situated between Bannerghatta Road and Kanakapura Road, is again in the news for the wrong reasons. Developed by the BDA, it was handed over to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) recently and is now under the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC). The residents are not demanding all amenities that were earlier neglected by the BDA, but they are seeking an end to the garbage menace. They complain that vacant land parcels and internal roads have turned into dumping yards for all kinds of garbage and construction and demolition (C&D) material. They also say that rampant burning of waste has become a serious health hazard for them.

Residents are running from pillar to post seeking a solution to the



garbage woes but in vain. "With not many site owners constructing buildings, the vacant sites have become a dumping destination. The layout has water supply and UGD facility. We are facing a lot of problems due to miscreants who set garbage on fire,



Garbage was set on fire on Monday at Anjanapura; (Right) Police engaging a concrete mixing vehicle to douse fire

causing inconvenience to residents. We recently met the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) Commissioner requesting him to solve these garbage-related problems," said Dr Padma Urs, president, Pan Anjan-

apura Residents' Welfare Association.

Lingaraj Dinni, Joint Secretary of the Pan Anjanapura Residents' Welfare Association, said some people have dumped old furniture in the 7th block of the layout. "We have been complaining to the authorities but nothing has happened. The authorities must ensure streetlights and CCTV cameras in the layout. Marshals must keep vigil on those dumping garbage. On Monday, miscreants set garbage on fire. We informed the police and fire and emergency services. The police rushed and doused the fire by engaging a concrete mixing vehicle. The fire and emergency services personnel arrived late. Authorities must fix this problem without delay," said Lingaraj Dinni.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) Assistant General Manager Neelakantiah said he was not aware of the garbage fire incident. "No one has informed me about the fire incident. I will depute my subordinates to the spot. Please send me the location. I will send one of the marshals to the spot. I will ensure that the garbage is cleared," said the assistant general manager.

Unsafe stretch

Jayanagar



A two-month-old unfilled pit on a dug-up footpath in Jayanagar 5th Block has made the narrow stretch unsafe, especially during nighttime.

Woman kills boyfriend over 'neglect'

A 27-year-old woman allegedly murdered her boyfriend by setting him on blaze on Tuesday afternoon after suspecting that he had been ignoring her in recent days.

The incident occurred between 1.30 pm and 1.45 pm. The accused, identified as Prema T, a resident of Pipeline Road, Anjana Nagar near Magadi Main Road, is said to have been in a relationship for over a year with the victim, Kiran (27). Both were working at a phone service provider store near Bashyam Circle in

Rajajinagar.

According to preliminary police investigations, tensions had been brewing between the couple, with Prema reportedly upset over Kiran distancing himself. On the day of the incident, Prema was alone at home and is said to have called Kiran and brought him to a house in Byadarahalli under the pretext of work related to a new connection near Nelamangala.

Police suspect that the murder took place at the location, following which the accused allegedly attempted to destroy evidence by setting the body on fire at her residence. Police said the accused used kerosene to set him on fire. The accused allegedly tied him up. She then reportedly set him on fire and is suspected to have recorded

the incident on her phone. However, police officials have said that the exact sequence of events and motive are still being verified.

A case has been registered at Byadarahalli police station and police have taken Prema into custody for questioning. Officials are also examining call records, workplace interactions, and movements of both the accused and the victim to establish a clear timeline. Forensic teams have been deployed to gather evidence from both the crime scene and the accused's house. Investigation is underway to determine whether the act was premeditated and if anyone else was involved. —BMB

Chain-snatching case cracked

The Hennur police have seized a 38 gram gold chain valued at Rs 6.50 lakh based on a complaint by a resident of Tiers Layout last week. According to the official police report, the complainant was walking

with a friend on Kempegowda Road in the morning when two unidentified persons on a two-wheeler blindsided them, snatched the gold chain from her neck, and fled the scene.

Police officials gained insights from credible sources

and were able to apprehend the two persons involved in the crime near their residence in Sonnappa Layout. From their possession, police officials recovered the stolen property. The two accused were presented in court on Friday and were remanded in judicial custody. —BMB

Hoysala teams prevent 2 suicides

Hoysala 45 from DJ Halli Police Station received an update from Namma 112 that a person was attempting suicide. The incident was reported by the mother of the victim on Monday around 6.36 pm. Hoysala officials reached the residence of the victim in 13 minutes and assessed the

situation.

They noticed that the victim had serious injuries and began making preparations for an ambulance. The police officials shifted the victim to Bowring Hospital, where the individual is undergoing treatment.

In another such incident, Hoysala 169 from

Vidyaranyapura Police Station received an alert around 11.28 pm. A woman from the Vaderahalli area attempted suicide by consuming poison.

Hoysala 169 reached the spot in 15 minutes. Unable to make contact with the woman, the police officials broke open the door and rescued her. She was then shifted to a hospital for treatment. —BMB

401 trees face the axe



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Hundreds of trees in the city's outskirts are likely to be cut to give way to various development projects.

As per public notices by the Forest Department, 401 trees may soon face the axe. Of these, 261 trees are located on the campus of Government Higher Primary School in Mathkur in West Bengaluru. As many as 141 trees in Bengaluru North face a threat due to the development work of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project between Yelahanka and Anekal. Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development

Company Limited (K-RIDE) has sought permission after land acquisition for the construction of a railway station and entry and exit to the station in Rajanukunte under the BSRP project.

As per the application submitted by K-RIDE, 100 trees in the Rajanukunte area and 39 trees in the Muddenahalli area are obstructing the work. These trees include mango, honge, eucalyptus, halasu, neem, teak, and silver oak trees, to mention a few.

The 261 trees on the campus of Government Higher Primary School in Mathkur are eucalyptus trees.

City-based tree activists say many of these development activities, including those in the past, are taking place without due consideration to

Bengaluru's green cover.

"Bengaluru's green cover is depleting fast, and its impact is visible now. The city's current climate condition is a reminder that we need to be careful when it comes to striking a balance between development activities and saving greenery. The majority of the trees that are felled for various infrastructure and development projects can be saved with small tweaks in the alignments and designs," said an environmentalist.

Experts say the city has reached a point where any project that requires the felling of a large number of trees should undergo an environmental impact assessment. Moreover, instead of GBA putting out public notices inviting comments and objections from the public, compulsory public consultation sessions should be organised.

"Given the current scenario, we cannot consider compensatory plantation as a solution. No amount of saplings planted can replace ecosystem services provided by fully grown trees," said the environmentalist.

CRIME FILES

CCB busts prostitution racket, rescues 6 women

Officers of the CCB Women Protection Wing learnt about a possible prostitution racket operating in spas located in areas such as Sunkadakatte, Marathahalli, and a house in Manjunatha Nagar. The team sprang into action and verified preliminary details of the locations.

Officers then conducted raids at the locations, and during the operation they rescued six women, who were forced into prostitution work. CCB officials arrested four persons, including three women, who forced the victims into prostitution.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and said that they would contact men seeking prostitution services over the phone, after which they would invite them into these spas and house for illegal activities for quick monetary gain.

Officials have registered cases against the accused in HAL, Byadarahalli, and Bagalagunte police stations. The four accused were presented before the court and remain in judicial custody. —BMB

Shivamogga ISIS conspiracy case: 3 accused convicted

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has convicted a third accused in the 2022 Shivamogga ISIS terror conspiracy case, sentencing him to six years of rigorous imprisonment.

The accused, Arafath Ali, was found guilty by the NIA Special Court in Bengaluru for his role in promoting the ideology of the banned terror outfit Islamic State (ISIS) and recruiting vulnerable youth into the Shivamogga terror module. The court had earlier, in November 2025, sentenced two other accused in the same case to six years' imprisonment.

According to the NIA press release, Arafath had fled India in January 2020 to evade arrest in connection with another terror module. He was arrested upon his arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in September 2023.

Investigations revealed that Arafath played a key role in radicalisation, recruitment, and funding activities. He was allegedly in touch with an online ISIS handler and facilitated terror financing through cryptocurrency channels, distributing funds among co-accused. —BMB

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Ink to link: Ancient scripts goes online

Karnataka launches landmark drive to digitise rare manuscripts, protect fragile heritage records, curb illegal trade, and build secure digital archive

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In a major step to safeguard Karnataka's rich cultural and intellectual heritage, the state government has initiated the process of establishing a dedicated authority for preserving and digitising ancient manuscripts. The move aims to systematically preserve handwritten records that reflect the state's history, traditions and knowledge systems, and to make them accessible to future generations.

Sources said that the proposed authority will focus on surveying, documenting, conserving, digitising, researching and publishing manuscripts in languages including Kannada, Sanskrit, Pali, Tamil, Telugu, Arabic and Persian, among others. These manuscripts may exist in diverse formats such as palm leaves, paper, cloth, copper plates, bark or stone inscriptions.

Backed by the newly approved 'Karnataka Knowledge Repository Manuscripts and Digitisation Act, 2026', the initiative also plans to create a dedicated fund through state and central grants, CSR contributions and donations to support long-term preservation efforts.

Officials said that, under the plan, a comprehensive digital and physical registry will be created, capturing key details such as location, ownership, physical condition, script, language and subject of each manuscript. While ownership will remain with individuals or institutions, sharing manuscript details with the authority will be mandatory. Officials have clarified



New authority to catalogue multilingual texts, fund conservation, mandate registration, and enable public access while safeguarding ownership and ensuring strict penalties for damage or export

that there is no risk of confiscation; manuscripts submitted voluntarily will be digitised and returned, with the possibility of museum display, translation and publication.

"There is a misconception that manuscripts will be seized, but ownership remains with the holder. Our aim is preservation and accessibility," said Archaeology Com-

missioner Devaraj. The authority will also be empowered to conduct surveys and digitisation with prior notice and consent, ensuring data security and privacy. A time-bound mission has been proposed to conserve and digitise at least five lakh pages annually, with all digitised content to be uploaded on the 'Karnataka Jnana Bhandara' portal.

The initiative includes establishing conservation and resource centres, integrating manuscript knowledge into academic curricula, and preventing illegal trade or destruction. Violations, including unauthorised export or damage to declared heritage manuscripts, could attract up to three years' imprisonment or a fine of 5 lakh. Highlighting the urgency, Archaeology Department officials noted that many manuscripts have already been lost due to neglect, and stressed that preserving this knowledge base is crucial for the benefit of future generations.

Vets push to end cruelty

As World Veterinary Day highlights the vital role of veterinarians, CJ Memorial Trust has urged professionals across Karnataka to go beyond treatment and take a proactive role in enforcing animal welfare laws.

In a letter to the Karnataka Veterinary Council and practitioners, the trust thanked veterinarians, calling them "healers and hopesters" for voiceless animals, while stressing that the profession stands at a critical crossroads. It said veterinarians must embrace their role as essential health workers and leaders in animal welfare.

"We deeply value their work, but now more than ever, veterinarians must act as changemakers influencing how animals are treated," said a member of the trust.

The trust outlined key actions, including ensuring breeder registration with the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board, discouraging backyard breeding, promoting neutering, and encouraging adoption, especially of Indie dogs. Clinics were also urged to display clear information on breeding and pet shop regulations.

In a separate note to regulators, the trust flagged a gap between strong laws, such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and weak enforcement. "The issue is not the absence of laws, but the lack of enforcement," it said, calling for a shift from reactive roles to proactive leadership.

It proposed updating the Veterinary Code of Ethics to penalise failure to report illegal breeding, mandating awareness displays in clinics, and creating clear reporting systems for violations. Continued legal training for veterinarians was also emphasised.

The trust said stronger accountability would reinforce the profession's role as a trusted advocate for animals. It also acknowledged veterinarians' dedication, describing a "good vet" as one who not only treats animals but also resists unethical practices and promotes responsible pet ownership.

— Iffath Fathima



No drizzle, only sizzle in Bengaluru

Blistering conditions tighten grip over Bengaluru as cloudless horizons persist, draining energy levels and intensifying discomfort for residents awaiting seasonal relief

With the city reeling under sweltering heat, a common question on everyone's mind is when the rains will finally arrive. However, the outlook offers little comfort, as there are no signs of rainfall in the near future. As temperatures continue to climb above normal levels, residents are already struggling to cope with the harsh summer conditions.

The summer heat in the capital is steadily intensifying, with residents already feeling the strain from the early morning sun. People are finding it difficult to cope as temperatures soar beyond normal levels. The usual maximum temperature for this period is around 34.7°C. Similarly,

the minimum temperature, which typically stands at 22.2°C, has risen to 24.2°C. Overall, both maximum and minimum temperatures are averaging 2-3°C above normal, making the heat increasingly unbearable. The harsh sunlight is so intense that even a short walk of 100 metres leaves people exhausted.

Despite the passage of several weeks, the capital has not witnessed any significant rainfall. Last year, the south-west monsoon followed the north-east monsoon, bringing a few spells of heavy rain in October and November. However, since then, Silicon City has largely remained dry, with no substantial showers recorded.

Currently, there are no signs of rain in the city. The prevailing dry

weather conditions have eliminated any immediate chances of precipitation. According to a senior meteorologist, the absence of strong pre-monsoon winds, the lack of low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, and the non-formation of cyclonic activity or moisture-laden clouds are the primary reasons for the dry spell in Bengaluru and surrounding regions. There are no weather systems in southern interior Karnataka that could trigger rainfall, and forecasts indicate no rain until April 27.

The rising heat is also affecting daily life, with people struggling to get proper sleep at night due to the warm conditions. The Meteorological Department has stated that, over the next five

Unusual heat persists without rain, disrupting sleep, increasing health risks, and signalling a prolonged dry spell

days, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to remain around 36°C and 24°C, respectively.

Rising heat is triggering dizziness, nausea, heavy sweating and cramps. Doctors urge avoiding peak sun, wearing light cotton clothes and using umbrellas or hats. Stay hydrated with coconut water, buttermilk or ORS, and eat water-rich foods like watermelon and cucumber. Drink water regularly, even without feeling thirsty. —BMB

SSLC exams: Students must be awarded marks, not grades, HC rules

In a key decision concerning SSLC examinations in Karnataka, the High Court has ruled that students must be awarded marks—not grades—for third-language subjects in the current academic year.

The order was passed while hearing petitions filed by students who challenged the State government's decision to introduce a grading system for third languages midway through the academic cycle. The

petitioners contended that replacing marks with grades at such a stage could negatively impact their academic records, particularly in contexts where numerical scores are crucial for higher education and competitive examinations.

Taking note of these concerns, the court underscored that changes to evaluation methods cannot be implemented after the examination process has already begun. It observed that the rules governing

assessment must remain consistent with those in force at the time the examination notification was issued. The bench made it clear that "the

HIGH COURT

students cannot be made to suffer on account of a change in policy introduced at a later stage," and stressed that "the criteria of evaluation must be in accordance with the norms existing when the examina-

tion process commenced."

The State had earlier decided that third-language papers would be assessed only through grades, without assigning numerical marks or including them in the final aggregate. The move was intended to reduce academic pressure on students, especially as many reportedly found it difficult to clear the subject.

However, the High Court's ruling effectively sets aside this approach

for the present academic year. It directed that students be awarded marks for their third-language papers, ensuring uniformity with the evaluation system that was originally in place.

The court further reiterated that "any alteration to the scheme of evaluation during the course of the academic year would be impermissible," reinforcing the principle that policy shifts in education must not disrupt students midstream. **BMB**

Digital marks cards spark concerns, officials reassure

The State government's decision to issue only digital marks cards for II PUC students starting from the 2026-27 academic year has raised public concerns, particularly among students planning to pursue higher education abroad.

However, officials have clarified that there is no cause for worry, as printed marks cards will still be available to those who specifically require them.

Pre-University Department officials said students and parents need not worry, especially those aiming for overseas edu-

cation. Such students can apply for and obtain printed marks cards by paying the prescribed fee.

Officials explained that in the current digital era, even the Central government has granted legal recognition to digital documents, and the State is aligning with this approach.

They added that implementation remains a year away, and students studying within the State or in regions accepting DigiLocker documents will face no issues. Physical copies available for overseas students, easing transition concerns. **BMB**

44 colleges offer engineering in Indian languages

As part of efforts to promote multilingual education, 44 institutions across nine states have introduced engineering and diploma programmes in Indian languages for the academic year 2025-26, according to the Centre.

These courses, approved by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), are offered in streams such as Computer Science, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Artificial Intelligence. Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said the initiative follows the National Education Policy 2020, which encourages

the use of mother tongue in technical education.

AICTE has issued guidelines to prepare textbooks in Indian languages and launched a Technical Book Writing Initiative covering 12 languages, including Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Bengali.

The books are available for free download on the e-KUMBH portal. The council has also developed the 'Anuvadini' application to translate technical content and supports institutions through the VAANI initiative, aiming to expand accessibility and improve learning outcomes nationwide. **BMB**

No state review on education loans

The Centre has said no state-specific review has been conducted on the implementation of the Model Education Loan Scheme (MELS) 2022. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said authorities review the overall performance of public sector banks periodically, and the Reserve Bank of India has advised all banks to adopt the scheme framed by the Indian Banks' Association. Under MELS, students can avail need-based loans without collateral up to ₹7.5 lakh under specified conditions. Banks do not require any margin for loans up to ₹4 lakh, and the repayment tenure can extend up to 15 years after a moratorium period. RBI guidelines also bar mandatory collateral for loans up to ₹4 lakh.

Banks must maintain internal monitoring and grievance redressal systems, ensure transparency in loan rejections, conduct awareness drives, and monitor lending to SC/ST communities. **BMB**

Health awareness drive expands across schools

With more than 14.82 lakh teachers trained as Health and Wellness Ambassadors and about 11 crore students covered under nutrition schemes, the Centre has outlined ongoing measures to integrate health awareness and lifestyle education into the school system.

Programmes such as the School Health and Wellness Programme and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram are being implemented to conduct regular health check-ups, promote hygiene, and address issues such as mental health and nutrition among students.

Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary said these steps align with the National Education Policy 2020, which provides for inclusion of subjects such as holistic health and environmental education at different stages of schooling.

He said NCERT textbooks and initiatives by CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti include physical fitness, yoga, and awareness on tobacco and alcohol use, while UGC and AICTE have issued guidelines on fitness, stress management, and preventive health. **BMB**

CBSE schools gear up for Yoga Day

Schools affiliated to the CBSE have been directed to actively participate in the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY-2026), to be observed on June 21, with a series of activities aimed at promoting holistic health and well-being among students and staff.

The Ministry of AYUSH has planned nationwide programmes to drive awareness, participation and adoption of yoga as a preventive healthcare

practice, while also promoting student volunteering and organising events such as the Yoga Olympiad. As part of the run-up, the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga will conduct "100 Days Free Live Yoga Sessions" under the Yoga 365 initiative, featuring structured sessions led by experts. Schools have been asked to facilitate registrations, organise workshops and seminars, and conduct mass yoga demonstrations. **BMB**



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Vijay Karnataka Felicitates Education Excellence Across Karnataka



A total of fifteen achievers in the field of education were honoured with the 'VK & BM Education Excellence & Honour – 2026' awards for their outstanding contributions. The awards were presented by Sugar and Agricultural Marketing Minister Shivanand Patil. Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror CEO Deepak Saluja, VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli, and actors Dharmakeerthiraj, Anusha Rai and Risha Gowda were present on the occasion

In a significant initiative to recognise meaningful contributions to the education sector, Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror felicitated 15 educational institutions and achievers with the 'VK & BM Education Excellence & Honour – 2026' awards at a function held in a private hotel in Bengaluru. Presenting the awards, Minister for Sugar, Agricultural Marketing and Textiles, Shivanand Patil, praised the role of educational institutions in shaping Karnataka's growth and global standing. "Bengaluru's rise on the global stage is largely due to its strong educational base. Indians leading major global companies is a reflection of the quality of education imparted here," he said. He also highlighted the contributions of mutts across the state, from Mysuru to Bidar and Vijayapura to Kalaburagi, noting that they have provided inclusive education cutting across communities. Institutions like Siddaganga Mutt, which supports thousands of students with food, shelter and education, along with others such as Suttur and Naganur mutts, were acknowledged for their service. He further appreciated the role of Christian missionary institutions in strengthening the education system and said such collective efforts have helped Karnataka excel in IT, science and economic growth.

Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Saluja, CEO of Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror,



stressed that education must go beyond marks, ranks and salary packages. "Today, institutions are often judged by the number of topers or placements, but we must also ask how much civic sense and responsibility students are gaining. Education should create responsible citizens, not just job seekers," he said. He pointed out that even educated individuals often fail to demonstrate basic civic responsibility, underlining the need to integrate such values into the curriculum. He added that education should not be limited to textbooks but must nurture accountability and social awareness. Highlighting the role of the publication, he said Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror remain committed to bringing the success stories of educational institutions to the forefront and encouraging holistic development.

VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli said the Vijay Karnataka, which has completed 26 years, has consistently upheld credibility and quality journalism. "We

have always ensured that every report is thoroughly verified and meaningful," he said. He added that the publication has been actively promoting education across Karnataka by highlighting emerging institutions, new courses and inspiring success stories over the past few years. Beyond education, Vijay Karnataka continues to support sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, cinema and finance through initiatives like 'VK Money', which promotes financial literacy among readers. As part of the Times of India Group, which has also expanded its presence in sports through co-ownership of RCB men's and women's teams, the organisation continues to strengthen its connect with audiences. With its growing digital reach, including international readership through its e-paper, Vijay Karnataka reinforces its vision of driving awareness, recognising excellence and inspiring progress across Karnataka.

'Bengaluru Inn' Team Adds Star Power

The award ceremony was further enlivened by the presence of the lead actors of the film 'Bengaluru Inn', who added glamour and energy to the occasion. Actor Dharmakeerthiraj said Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror have been closely connected with the pulse of people across the state and have become a household name through its consistent public service over the decades. "Honouring achievers and institutions in the education sector is a meaningful initiative. Along with institutions, parents must also focus more on value-based education," he said. He also appreciated the publication's support to the film industry through promotion and analysis, adding that he has been part of the industry for 16 years and has acted in 25 films.

Actor Anusha Rai said Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror have built a strong tradition of encouraging achievers across various fields. "From farmers to scientists, education plays a crucial role in everyone's life. Recognising those who have built institutions that shape society is truly commendable," she said. Actor Risha Gowda highlighted the lasting value of education, stating, "Education is a wealth that cannot be taken away. Knowledge builds confidence, and institutions play a key role in guiding the youth, who are the true strength of the nation. The schools and institutions we study in leave a lasting impact on our lives," she said, appreciating the initiative.



Minister for Sugar, Agricultural Marketing and Textiles



CEO, Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror



Editor

Knowledge partner



"For over 27 years, we have trained more than 25,000 students in animation and gaming, many of whom are now placed in leading companies. Being recognised by VK and BM is truly gratifying and encourages us to continue our work with greater commitment."

— **B.S. Srinivas**, Director of Arena Animation; Founder Chairman-Vedatma College of Design, Technology & Management.



"VK and BM are doing a commendable job by identifying and honouring achievers. Such recognition not only celebrates success but also inspires many others to strive for excellence. We hope this initiative continues to grow."

— **Prof. M.R. Holla**, Chairman, Sai Vidya Group of Institutions



"Being recognised for our contribution to education is deeply encouraging. This honour from VK and BM motivates us to take on greater responsibility and continue delivering quality education."

— **Usha Gangadhar**, Secretary, SDC Group of Institutions



"With around 8,000 students pursuing diverse courses at our institution, recognition like this strengthens our resolve. VK and BM's effort to encourage private institutions is truly noteworthy."

— **Anupama K.**, Treasurer, SEA Group of Institutions



"At IIBS, we focus on delivering value-added education that prepares students for real-world challenges. Vijay Karnataka and BM play an important role as a bridge between industry and academia, and such initiatives deserve wider appreciation."

— **Dr. Jay Prakash**, Founder and Chairman of the International Institute of Business Studies (IIBS).

What awardees said



"Educational institutions work with immense dedication behind the scenes. Recognition like this not only brings joy but also motivates us to raise our standards and strive for greater excellence."

— **Rangarajan M**, COO, Aikya World School



"Being recognised by VK and BM has strengthened our sense of responsibility. It inspires us to serve society with greater commitment and continue improving in the years ahead. We are grateful for this honour."

— **Prof. Gaurishankar K.V.**, Founder Trustee, Sri Shirdi Sai Education Trust and Principal, Hoysala PU College



"By identifying and honouring deserving contributors in education, VK and BM has reminded us of our core purpose. This recognition feels like a true reward for our efforts and dedication."

— **Anand Murali**, Founder and Director, Golden Profiles Academy



"Our institution operates in over 50 cities across the country, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, training thousands of students for law entrance exams. We appreciate the well-organised event by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror."

— **Bharat Jaggaraju**, Director, Law Prep Tutorial



"We started our institution with a focus on delivering quality education. This recognition from VK and BM not only strengthens our resolve but also helps us reach and impact more students."

— **S. Sunil Kumar**, Managing Director, Shiksha Infinity Trust



"Usually, recognitions are limited to district-level achievers. What makes this special is that VK and BM have reached the taluk level to identify institutions like ours. This recognition has truly boosted our confidence and strengthened our resolve to grow further."

— **Dr. Vikram N.R.**, Vice Chairman, SLES Group of Institutions



"Since 2017, we have been working with a clear vision to build an institution of international standards in a rural setting. After being honoured earlier as 'Achievers of Karnataka' in 2024, being recognised again is deeply encouraging and reinforces our commitment."

— **Manjunath Reddy**, Chairman, Varidhi Group of Institutions



"At a time when education is increasingly commercialised, our focus remains on making quality education accessible to students from all sections, especially the underprivileged. As we celebrate our silver jubilee this year, this recognition adds to our sense of fulfillment."

— **Dr. Raghavendra V.**, Director, Sri Krishna Institute of Technology



"Our institution recently won five gold medals at an international culinary competition, with four winners from Karnataka, which is a matter of pride. Being recognised for this achievement by VK and BM makes this honour even more meaningful for us."

— **R. Boominathan**, Head, Chennai's Amrita Group of Institutions



"We firmly believe education is the foundation for social transformation. With a focus on shaping young minds who represent the future of the nation, we continue to work towards delivering meaningful learning. This recognition motivates us to strive harder and do better."

— **Pramod Srinivas**, Managing Director and Founder of National Public School (NPS), JP Nagar and NPS Varthur



NOT MAGIC, JUST BIOLOGY

Placebo effect can work
as well as real medicine
— but your body may need
permission to use it

The first time the placebo effect really got under my skin was when I read that roughly one-third of people with irritable bowel syndrome improve on placebo treatments alone. Usually this statistic is presented as a fascinating quirk of medicine. My reaction was anger. Humanity possesses an extremely effective treatment, with essentially zero side effects — and patients need someone else's permission to use it.

The placebo effect refers to the improvements in symptoms that patients experience after they're given an inert treatment like a sugar pill. Driven by expectation, context and social cues rather than pharmacology, the placebo effect is often dismissed as all in the mind. But decades of research have shown it is anything but imaginary.

Placebo treatments can trigger measurable changes in the brain,

immune system and hormone function. In studies on pain, placebos cause the brain to release endorphins, the body's natural opioids. In Parkinson's disease, placebo injections increase dopamine activity in the brain. The placebo effect isn't magic. It's biology.

Having spent nearly a quarter-century teaching evolutionary medicine, I've come to see placebos not as curiosities of clinical trials but as windows into how human biology responds to social signals.

Medicine works, even when it isn't medicine

The placebo effect is so reliable that researchers must account for it in nearly every clinical trial.

When testing a new drug, scientists compare its effects to what patients experience on a placebo treatment like sugar pills, saline injections or sham surgery. If the drug doesn't outperform the

placebo, it rarely reaches the public. Placebo responses are common and powerful enough to rival active treatments. Even surgery isn't immune to the placebo effect. In several well-documented studies of knee procedures, patients who received sham operations — incisions without the full surgical repair — improved almost as much as those who received the real procedure.

Clearly something real is happening inside the body. But the strangest part of the placebo effect is not that it works. It's what makes it work.

The prescription of belief

Placebo treatments tend to be more effective when delivered by credible authorities. Pills work better when prescribed by doctors wearing white coats.

Some researchers have even removed the deception from placebo experiments entirely. In open-label placebo studies, patients are directly told they are receiving a placebo; and yet many still report significant improvement.

But look more closely at how these studies are run. Patients are not simply handed a sugar pill and sent home. They receive an explanation from a clinician, in a medical setting, within a structured ritual of care: a context that may be doing much of the biological work.

Even when the deception disappears, the social scaffolding

remains. The permission to heal is still being granted by someone else.

Beyond the patient

The placebo effect is often framed as something happening inside an individual. But it does not operate in isolation.

Consider what happens in veterinary medicine. Dogs and cats cannot believe a treatment they're given will work; they have no concept of receiving medication. Yet when owners and vets believe an animal is being treated, they consistently report improvements in pain and mobility that medical tests do not confirm.

In one study of dogs with osteoarthritis, owners reported improvement roughly 57% of the time for animals receiving only a placebo.

The animals themselves may not have improved. But the humans caring for them perceived they had. The healing signal, it turns out, travels through the humans in the room.

When healing makes things worse

There have been times when going to the doctor made you less likely to survive. In the 19th century, mainstream medicine was built on bloodletting, purging and doses of mercury and arsenic — treatments that killed as often as they cured.

Homeopathy emerged in the late 18th century precisely in this context. Its founder, Samuel Hahnemann, was a physician horrified by the harm the conventional medicine of his time was

causing. His highly diluted versions of contemporary remedies did nothing pharmacologically. But they also did not kill people, which put them decisively ahead of the competition.

During the cholera epidemics of the mid-1800s, patients at homeopathic hospitals had lower death rates than those receiving standard care. Why was that?

The standard cholera treatment of the era was aggressive and exhausting; for a disease that already caused massive fluid loss, doctors often prescribed further bloodletting, along with toxic purgatives such as calomel — a form of mercury — to “flush” the system. In contrast, homeopathic care involved extreme dilutions of substances in water or alcohol, effectively providing hydration and a calm, structured environment without the physiological assault.

Death rates were lower not because homeopathy worked but because the placebo effect — combined with not poisoning patients — was more effective than the medicine of the day.

Healing is not free

The body needs resources to heal from injury and disease. Activating systems such as immune responses, tissue repair and inflammation at the wrong time can be dangerous.

A full-scale immune response is metabolically expensive, with fever increasing metabolic rate by roughly 10% per degree Celsius rise in body temperature. Furthermore, misplaced or overzealous inflammation causes collateral damage to healthy tissues.

Some researchers have proposed that placebo responses reflect a kind of biological health governor: a system that regulates when the body invests heavily in recovery. Cues from trusted individuals may be exactly the signal the body waits for before committing resources to recovery. A caregiver's reassurance, a physician's authority and the rituals of medicine may tell the body that conditions are finally stable enough to devote energy to healing.

If that interpretation is correct, the placebo effect is not a trick of the mind. It is an ancient biological system responding to social information.

(Phil Starks, Tufts University, *The Conversation*)

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Home Pilates

If your leg day routine needs a refresh, Pilates might just be the upgrade you didn't know you needed. Simple, effective, and easy to do at home, these moves focus on toning, strengthening, and improving flexibility without any equipment. They may look easy, but they work muscles in a slow, controlled way that delivers results.

Plié squat move

Plié squats strengthen legs, glutes, and calves while aiding muscle growth and making the body leaner. They also tone inner thighs, hamstrings, and glutes. Stand with feet wider than shoulder-width, toes turned out. Lower your body by bending knees, engage core, then push back up by squeezing glutes.

Side leg lift

This is one of the easiest Pilates moves that targets outer hips and improves stability and mobility. Lie on one side, support your head, keep hips aligned, and lift the top leg upwards. Lower it slowly and repeat before switching sides.

Dual leg lifts

This move not only works your core but also tones thighs effectively. Lie on your back, extend legs upward, and lower them slowly while keeping control. Engage your core and pause before lifting again.

Flying scissors move

Though it may seem challenging, this move helps tone thighs. Lie down, lift hips, extend legs upward, and split them in the air. Repeat in a controlled motion.

Glute bridge exercise

An alternative to squats, this move tones outer thighs effectively. Lie on your back, bend knees, press feet into the floor, and lift hips. Hold briefly before lowering back down.

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Abhishek Sharma draws level with Virat Kohli, scoring his ninth century

Makings of a pitch-perfect innings

Abhishek Sharma matched Virat Kohli in a significant T20 achievement by scoring his ninth century in the format. This performance highlighted a record-breaking night for Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match against Delhi Capitals in Hyderabad.

The explosive left-hander delivered an outstanding innings, marking his second IPL hundred in style while maintaining his impressive consistency at the top of the order. With this achievement, Abhishek reinforced his rising status in the shortest format and equalled Kohli's record of nine T20 hundreds, the highest by an Indian. Among international players, only Chris Gayle (22), Babar Azam (12), and David Warner (10) have more, while Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw, and Sahibzada Farhan are also tied with him at nine.

This innings was also important for his IPL career with Sunrisers Hyderabad. During his knock, Abhishek crossed the 2,000-run milestone for the franchise, becoming just the fourth batter overall and the second Indian to reach this mark. He now joins an exclusive group that includes Warner (4,014 runs), Shikhar Dhawan (2,518), and Kane Williamson (2,101).

To further emphasise his dominance, Abhishek confirmed his status as one of SRH's most powerful hitters. Along with Warner, he is one of only two batters who have hit more than 100 sixes for the franchise, showcasing his role as a modern T20 aggressor.

At the toss, Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Ishan Kishan said the track was different from the one on which they played in the previous two



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Indian cricket player Abhishek Sharma celebrates after scoring a century



Delhi Capitals' Nitish Rana plays a shot

matches.

"It all depends on how the wicket plays, and we play. We think the track might slow down a bit, and we need that wicket-taking option with the spin as well. They have been doing a very good job. It is all about exe-

cution. We will take one game at a time," Ishan Kishan said at the toss.

But going by the way Abhishek scored his runs, it appears there were no issues in the pitch, at least for him.

Hyderabad score

Abhishek was at his imperious best as neither Nitish Rana's (0/55 in 4 overs) off-breaks bothered him nor did Lungi Ngidi's (0/41 in 4 overs) dipping slower ones had any effect on his strokeplay as he smashed 10

sixes along with an equal number of boundaries.

Even with a relatively off-colour Travis Head (37 off 26 balls), he added 97 for the opening stand. Then skipper Ishan Kishan (25 off 13 balls) joined the party, adding another 79 runs for the second wicket in just 5.5 overs to create a beautiful launchpad for the final assault.

Towards the end as Abhishek seemed a bit tired, Heinrich Klaasen chanced his arms to hit a quickfire 37 not out off 13 balls.

Delhi Capitals' ploy of starting with an off-spinner, that too a mediocre part-timer like Nitish Rana (0/55 in 4 overs), backfired badly as he was given four overs in which he was hit for half a dozen sixes -- all off left-handed batters.

The DC coaching staff headlined by Director of Cricket Venugopal Rao and head coach Hemang Badani have not exactly been at their tactical best throughout the tournament and Tuesday was one such occasion.

Rana bowled a tidy first over but then the second went for 20 and after strategic time-out, he was again given two more overs out of which one went for 23.

Even skipper Axar Patel (1/23 in 2 overs) will have some answering to do as to why he as a frontline spinner didn't complete his quota and why Kuldeep Yadav (0/30 in 2 overs) was not trusted after one bad over (22 runs) but someone like Rana was persisted with.

In all, the two and half spinners (half being Rana) that DC bowled with went for 108 runs in their cumulative eight overs.

The Powerplay overs yielded 67 but where DC completely lost the plot was during the middle phase between overs 7 to 15 in which 116 runs came, which is unacceptable. —Agencies

Ayush Mhatre ruled out of remainder of IPL



Chennai Super Kings batter Ayush Mhatre has been ruled out of the remainder of the ongoing IPL season due to a hamstring injury, dealing a major blow to the five-time champions.

The franchise said Mhatre, who sustained the injury during CSK's previous game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 18, will require a rehabilitation period of six to 12 weeks.

"Ayush Mhatre has been ruled out of the remainder of IPL 2026 due to a left hamstring injury sustained while batting during the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 18.

"Ayush's injury will require a rehabilitation period of 6-12 weeks," CSK announced on its social media on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old, who came in as an impact substitute, was seen in visible discomfort and clutched his hamstring while attempting a run during CSK's 10-run loss to SRH in Hyderabad.

He required on-field treatment and, although he continued briefly, was dismissed soon after.

"It looks pretty bad, unfortunately. And he's going to be a big, big loss because he's been in really nice touch for us," CSK's batting coach Mike Hussey had said at the post-match press conference.

Mhatre has been CSK's standout batter this season. He collected 201 runs from six matches at a strike-rate of 177.87.

Chennai Super Kings have endured a poor start to the 2026 season, losing four of their six matches to languish in eighth place. —PTI

99-run loss is unacceptable: Hayden blames batting horror

Gujarat Titans' batting coach Matthew Hayden was scathing about their 99-run defeat to Mumbai Indians, blaming a "horror" batting display and poor death bowling for the heavy loss in the IPL.

From being 44/3 in 5.5 overs, MI hammered 73 runs in the last four overs to post a challenging 199/5 here on Monday. In reply, GT were bundled out for 100.

"I expect our margins to be a lot smaller than 100 (99). That is an unacceptable scorecard for our batting unit," the legendary Australian opener told the media in the post-match interaction.

"It was just a horrible day for us today. Truth be told, there was nothing good about this day, really, apart

from Rabada's performance with the ball. so we've got some work to do, definitely."

GT boasts a strong batting line-up in Sai Sudharsan (759 runs), Shubman Gill (717), and Jos Buttler (538). They have also added New Zealand's explosive Glenn Phillips in the middle order alongside Shahrukh Khan and Rahul Tewatia.

"When you look down at our batting line-up, we've got wonderful players that have to be in a better mindset and better position to take their opportunities. That is our expectations and has been since the conception of this Gujarat Titans franchise...

"So you can't be sitting here and being happy about a 100-run (99) margin game in a 20-over game. I



Gujarat Titans' Sai Sudharsan (R) walks back to the pavilion after being dismissed, and Jos Buttler enters the ground to bat

mean, back in my day, 100 runs was almost a winning total in 50-over cricket!"

The 54-year-old said GT lost the game in the powerplay.

"Well, the middle order was undoubtedly exposed. When they're coming in with six overs, you know that you're in deep trouble. The thing about the power plays is that you can't win it from there, especially in a run chase, but you can definitely lose it, and we lost it in the power play," he said.

Shahrukh (35 off 25 balls) and Tewatia (49 off 42) have not fared well this season and Hayden feels the duo along with Phillips (67 off 54 balls) have been struggling because the top order has been below its best. —PTI

Sophisticated cons designed to cash in on cricket fans' needs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deliver passes. According to the complaint filed on April 10, the victim, who was working as a security staff member at an IPL match venue, came into contact with a person offering match tickets on March 28. The accused shared a mobile number and later communicated via WhatsApp.

During the conversation, the accused, who spoke in Hindi, offered tickets for the high-demand Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Chennai Super Kings match scheduled on April 5. Initially, Sunitha transferred Rs 3,000 through UPI from her India Post Payments Bank account for two tickets. The accused sent QR code-based e-tickets, which

appeared genuine when scanned, displaying her name. Gaining her trust, the fraudster persuaded her to buy more tickets over multiple transactions between March 30 and April 4. She transferred amounts of Rs 4,000, Rs 3,000, Rs 7,500, Rs 25,500 and Rs12,500 through QR codes shared on WhatsApp. However, the tickets were later found to be invalid, and the accused became unreachable. Realising the fraud, the victim approached the police.

In a separate incident, a 25-year-old tech professional from Bengaluru was cheated of Rs 1.46 lakh by a fraudster, who approached him through Instagram. Police said the accused posed as a senior supervisor at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ticket counter and

lured the victim with promises of VIP access for the high-demand RCB vs CSK match, including match tickets, food coupons, and additional ID cards for friends.

To appear genuine, the fraudster asked the victim to come near Gate 10 of the stadium and even shared a fake email confirmation. According to the FIR filed at Mahadevapura police station, the victim initially agreed to purchase two tickets priced at ₹3,700 each. However, the accused repeatedly demanded additional payments under the pretext of refundable security deposits.

After exhausting his own transaction limits, the victim transferred money using his mother's bank account. In total, he sent ₹1.46 lakh to the fraudster. Despite multiple

payments, the promised tickets were never delivered, and the accused became unreachable.

Officials noted that cybercriminals are increasingly using sophisticated tactics, including cloned websites that resemble legitimate ticketing platforms, making it difficult for users to distinguish between genuine and fake sources. A fraudulent website posing as the official ticketing platform of RCB duped several users. The fake portal displayed convincing details and mimicked a legitimate booking interface. It allowed users to select seats, proceed to payment gateways, and complete transactions. But, once payments were made, the link was deactivated, leaving victims without tickets.

Police are urging fans to purchase tickets only through official platforms. They also shared through advisory on social media platforms stating that the public should verify website URLs carefully, avoid clicking on suspicious links, and refrain from making advance payments to unknown individuals or accounts. In addition, citizens have been asked to check the authenticity of social media pages claiming to sell tickets, as many fraudulent accounts use logos, images, and names similar to official franchises and organisers.

Police officials offered some tips: "Do not trust last minute or discounted ticket offerings, avoid making payments through UPI links from unknown persons, purchase tickets from official platforms only, do not share OTP, bank details or personal information."

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CHANGE OF NAME

I SHANMUGHAM KANDASAMY R/o No.152, 5th Main, Defence Layout, Vidyanarayana, Bangalore-560097. have changed my Name to K SHANMUGHAM for all purpose

WE Sagar Babu Pasumarthi and Pujitha Perisetla hereby want to change name of our minor son from Shriyaan Karthik Pasumarthi to Surya Vighneshwar Pasumarthi in front of Notary Nijagunardhya Bangalore vide affidavit dated 20th April 2026.

I, SHAHJUD JAMAL (Old Name) resident of No.20/1, 1st Main Road, Kuvempu Nagar, New Guddadahalli, Bengaluru-560026, have changed my name to SHAHIDA JAMAL (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 14/4/2026 Before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore

I, SHANTA POOJARI KRISHNA POOJARI, Residing at No.104/I, 5th Block, Kuvempu Nagar 2nd Stage, Mysuru - 560023, have changed my name to SHANTHA KRISHNA POOJARI, vide affidavit dated 10/04/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

WE A Hariharan and Rajeshwari H, residing at S2, Second Floor, Plot No. 817, MIR Residency, BEML Layout 3rd Stage, 4th Main, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore 560098, we have changed our daughter name to Kruthika H from H ISHITHA vide affidavit dated: 28/03/2026 Before Notary N Sandhya.

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I, SHREYA d/o MR NARAYAN HAKANTARA R/o Rayas compound chitrapur shirali ,bhatkal taluk ,uttara kannada district , karantaka 581354 have changed my name to Shreya Harikantra.

I, Hanumanthrayappa Thippaiah R/o No 4/17th Cross JP Nagar Jarganahalli Bengaluru 560078 Have Chnaged my name to Hanumantharaya Thippaiah for All Purposes.

I, Veena, W/o Sathyanarayana T.V., residing at No. 55, Agrahara Village, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, have changed my name from Veena to Ambekar Hanumantharao Veena for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 14/04/2026.

I, VISHESH, Residing at No. 37/2, 17th Main, Muneshwara Block, Gajendranagara - 560026, have changed my name to VISHESH THANTRY U M, vide affidavit dated 16/04/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Rasheeda Beegum Mohammad Ali C/o Asha Afzal R/o No E 218, V M Meadows, Horamavu Main Road, Near Horamavu Railway Cross, Horamavu, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560043 have changed my name To Resheeda Beegum TH for all purposes

I, Satish Kumar S/o Arjun Jha, resident of B-202, NCC Aster Park, Yelahanka, Bangalore do hereby declare that I have changed my Minor Son's name from Kumar Madhav to Madhav Jha and henceforth he shall be known as *Madhav Jha* in all purpose.

I, DIVYA KRISHNA POOJARI, Residing at No.104/I, 5th Main, Kuvempu Nagar 2nd Stage, Mysuru City - 560023, have changed my name to DIVYA KRISHNA, vide affidavit dated 10/04/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, AMUDHAVALLI GOVINDARAJ residing at No.72, P & T Colony, 14th Cross, Cholarpalya, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560023 have changed my name to AMUDHAVALLI SRINIVASAN vide affidavit dated 17/04/2026 sworn before notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore

I, SWAPNA SATYANARAYANASHETTY NAGENDRA GUPTA, Residing at No. 477 93rd Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my name to SWAPNA NAGENDRA GUPTA vide affidavit dated 26/03/2026 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Santhosh Battepati, S/o Sri. B Poorna Prasad R/o No.306/B, Loop Road, Behind 1947 Restaurant, Ideal Homes Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 I have changed my name from Santhosh Battepati to Santosh Battepati vide affidavit no: IN-KA39527701300456Y sworn before notary S.R. Thulasi krishna Bangalore dated 21.04.2026.

Warning: Only urgent measures can save lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

management practices, pollution control, and ecological rejuvenation initiatives. The Association also invited interested NGOs and environmental groups to collaborate in efforts to revive and safeguard this important water body.

"Sadashivanagar has been a haven for its residents thanks to the Sankey Lake. We must do whatever it takes to bring it back to its glory," said Chaitra Mukund, President, Sadashivanagar Residents Welfare Association.

Vishal Makhija, Secretary, Sadashivanagar Residents Welfare Association, said that Sankey Tank is not just a lake but a vital social and community space that also helps sustain groundwater levels — its rapid depletion is deeply concerning and demands immediate, collective action before the damage becomes irreversible.

Sapna A Ramaswami, a resident, said that Bengaluru was historically known as a city of a thousand lakes, developed from the 16th century by rulers like Kempe Gowda to manage water in a region with no major river. "These interconnected, man-made tanks were crucial for drinking and irrigation, but have dwindled from over 1,000 to roughly 198 due to urban growth and contamination. Sankey Tank is one such man-made, 37.1-acre reservoir in West Bangalore constructed in 1882 by Col. Richard Hieram Sankey of the Madras Sappers. It was rejuvenated by the BDA in 2004. However due to our gross indifference, neglect and apathy, Sankey Tank is suffering from sewage contamination, blocking of storm water inlets, unscientific urbanisation and lack of regular preventive maintenance for lake rejuvenation and sustainable approach by the authorities responsible for lakes/water bodies," she said.

Ramaswami, a long-time resident of Bengaluru, said it was painful to see the once beautiful Sankey Tank drying up in the recent months. "With predictions of below average monsoon this year, the future looks very bleak unless the authorities wake up and take action on a war footing," said Ramaswami.

Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) Executive Engineer (Lakes) Geetha told BM that water level in Sankey Tank has been depleting at an alarming rate. "We are planning to conduct an inspection of the lake by minor irrigation department engineers to check upon the suspected water leakage from the lake. I have already sent the proposal to higher authorities for approval. The inspection of the lake will be taken up as soon as we get an approval," the executive engineer said.



Auto man's journey

There are movies on auto drivers in all languages. Shankar Nag-starring Auto Raja, released in 1980, Real Star Uppendra-starring Auto Shankar, released in 2005, and Golden Star Ganesh-starring movie Auto Raja, released in 2013, were popular movies. Now, the Kannada movie Doddmansa is joining the list of films made on auto drivers.

Sharath Krishna, an upcoming artiste in Sandalwood, plays the lead and also directs the film. The



shooting wrapped up recently, and post-production work has been completed. The movie's teaser was unveiled at Utsav Legacy on Monday. The film reportedly narrates how an auto rickshaw driver rises to become a prominent personality in society.

"It is not based on real

incidents. I played the lead in the movie that has all elements not only to entertain audiences but also to convey a message to society. I am very happy with the cooperation and dedication of the cast and crew of this movie. We are making arrangements to release the movie across the state shortly. The movie has turned out well," said Sharath Krishna.

The film features Sharath Krishna, Reshma Lingarajappa, Huli Karthik, Bala Rajwadi, and Shilpa. Thanking the director, Reshma said, "I am grateful to the director-cum-hero for giving importance to my character."

Chandan Shetty debut

Kannada movie Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaa-la was supposed to arrive in theatres on April 17 but got postponed to April 24, which happens to be Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's birthday.

The film, directed by Sujay Shastri and backed by Govinda Raju under the Gokul Entertainers banner, marks the debut of Chandan Shetty as a lead actor. The team recently held a pre-release event at MMB Legacy on Monday.

"The movie has turned out well and I want to thank the cast and crew of the movie. Initially, the movie was scheduled for release on April 17 but got delayed by a week due to some reasons. I am sure of the movie becoming a huge success at the box office. I want mov-



iegers to encourage this movie by watching it in theatres," said Sujay Shastri.

Chandan Shetty said he was happy about the revised release date. "April 24 is the birthday of Kannada legendary actor Dr Rajkumar, who is like a God for all of us. I want movie buffs to support this movie," he said.

National Award-winning actress Tara praises team bonds, performances, and calls the film's songs impressive.

OTT meets legacy

Karisma Kapoor has stepped into a more measured phase of her career. Having witnessed the industry across decades, the Zubeidaa actress reflects on how her relationship with work has gradually shifted from pace to purpose, choosing depth over visibility. She shares, "Work today is about passion and purpose. I've grown up in the industry, and I've had the privilege of doing all kinds of roles, from commercial blockbusters to experimental films. Now, it's less about being everywhere and more about choosing projects that resonate with me."

At this stage, Karisma's choices reflect both personal priorities and professional satisfaction, with the actress admitting that time has become her biggest filter. She explains, "Earlier, there was a lot of momentum as you were working non-stop, going from one set to another. Now, I value time more. I'm selective because I want every project to feel worth stepping out for while also giving enough time to family. It's about the script, yes, but also the people and the intention behind



the story."

While she embraces new formats, her love for cinema remains unchanged. She says, "The big screen has its own magic; it's where I began, and it will always hold a special place in my heart. But I also love how storytelling has evolved with OTT platforms. The web gives scope for complex narratives and diverse characters."

—ETimes

Glamour on display

The Devil Wears Prada 2' is right around the corner! With only a few more days until the much-awaited film's release, the cast has been on a roll with promotional events and early premieres. The first world premiere was held in New York City, and all cast members made the red carpet their very own fashion show.

Many celebrities, including the main cast, attended the world premiere of The Devil Wears Prada 2, turning the evening into a showcase of high fashion. Veteran star Meryl Streep opted for a simple yet chic ankle-length red cape dress, paired with black faux leather gloves extending to her elbows and black pumps. She accessorised with sunglasses and



studded sun-shaped earrings for added dazzle.

Anne Hathaway, reprising Andy Sachs, wore a

red, shoulderless dress with strappy heels. Emily Blunt stunned in an off-white gown with pearls. Stanley Tucci chose a tailored suit. Lady Gaga, Simone Ashley, and Lucy Liu added star power, while Grace Gummer and Mark Ronson reflected the film's high-fashion appeal.

—ETimes

Aishwarya's mom moments

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's viral airport moment melts hearts, keeps Aaradhya grounded despite fame

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has been enjoying motherhood ever since her daughter was born and voluntarily has also stayed away from the movies after that. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan tied the knot in 2007, and their daughter Aaradhya Bachchan was born in 2011. Since then, she has been a hands-on mother, something evident in her constant presence by Aaradhya's side.

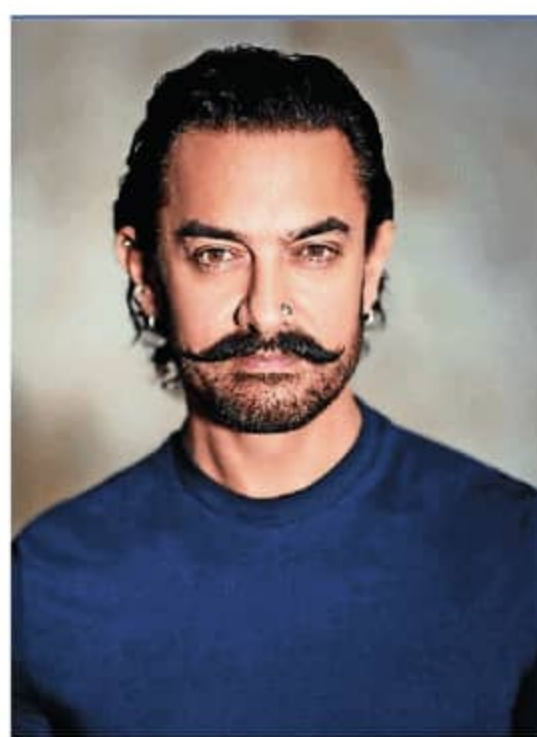
A recent viral video shows Aishwarya waiting at the airport to pick up Aaradhya as she returns from a school tour. She can be seen taking photos and videos of her daughter as she walks out. Aaradhya beamed with joy on seeing her mother and immediately hugged her. Later, Aaradhya posed with her friends while Aishwarya turned photographer, creating an adorable moment.

As the video went viral, netizens showered love on Aishwarya, calling her the "best mom ever". Many praised her simplicity and how she performs everyday parenting duties despite being a global icon. A user commented, "This looks like a regular mom duty Best Mom ever". Another wrote, "She is so invested as a mom. How blessed are you, Aaradhya." Others echoed similar sentiments, with comments like "Best mom" and "maa toh maa hoti hai."

The couple recently celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary on April 20, 2026, with Aishwarya sharing selfies featuring Abhishek and Aaradhya. The celebration appeared intimate, with the family choosing to mark the occasion privately, away from media glare and public attention.

In an earlier interview, Abhishek credited Aishwarya for giving Aaradhya a grounded upbringing. "Thankfully, her mother has seamlessly eased her into this world... she's just a normal kid and being that, she's happily playing, going to school, interacting with her friends." He added that maintaining normalcy remains their priority.

—ETimes



High praise from Aamir

The world of OTT is buzzing with the success of Nagraj Manjule's latest period drama, Matka King, and it has just received the ultimate "perfectionist" stamp of approval. Aamir Khan recently took to social media to praise the series, admitting that the central character of Ratan Khatri is

one he would have personally loved to portray. As the series trends on Amazon Prime Video following its April 17, 2026 launch, industry heavyweights like Ramesh Taurani, Vicky Kaushal and Karan Johar have also joined the chorus praising Vijay Varma's performance.

Aamir shared a poster

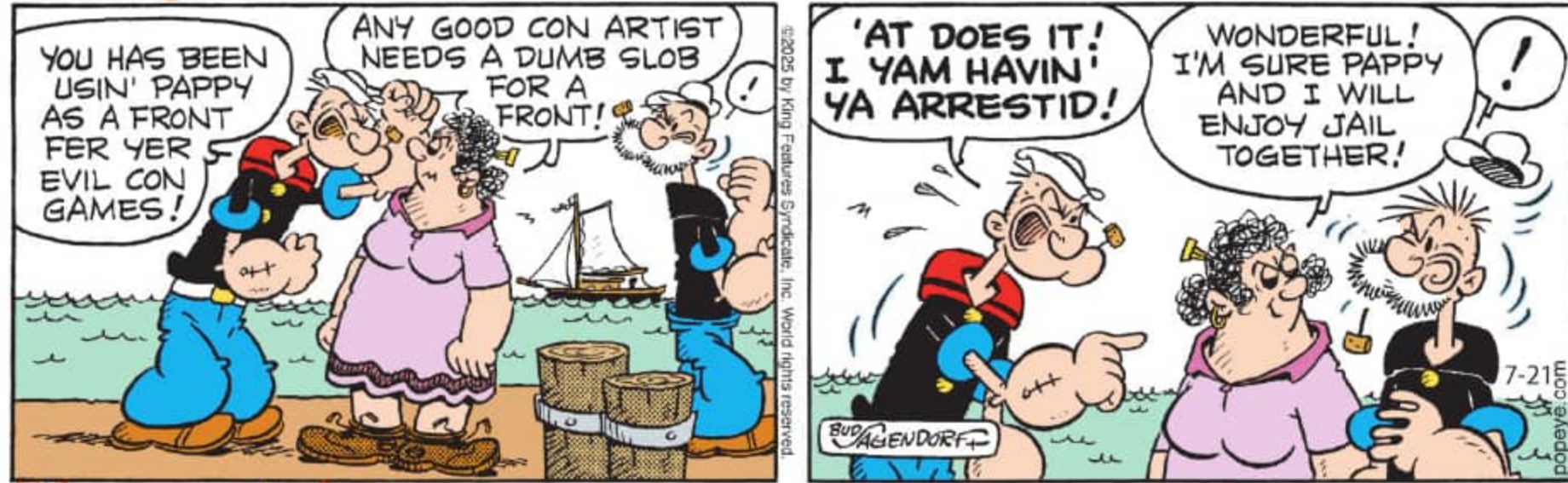
of Matka King on Instagram, writing, "Congratulation to Nagraj, Sid, Vijay, and the entire team of Matka King. Ratan Katri is a character I would have loved to play."

I'm sure Vijay must have killed it. Will be watching it soon after Ek Din's release. Hearing only great things about it. Congrats once again."

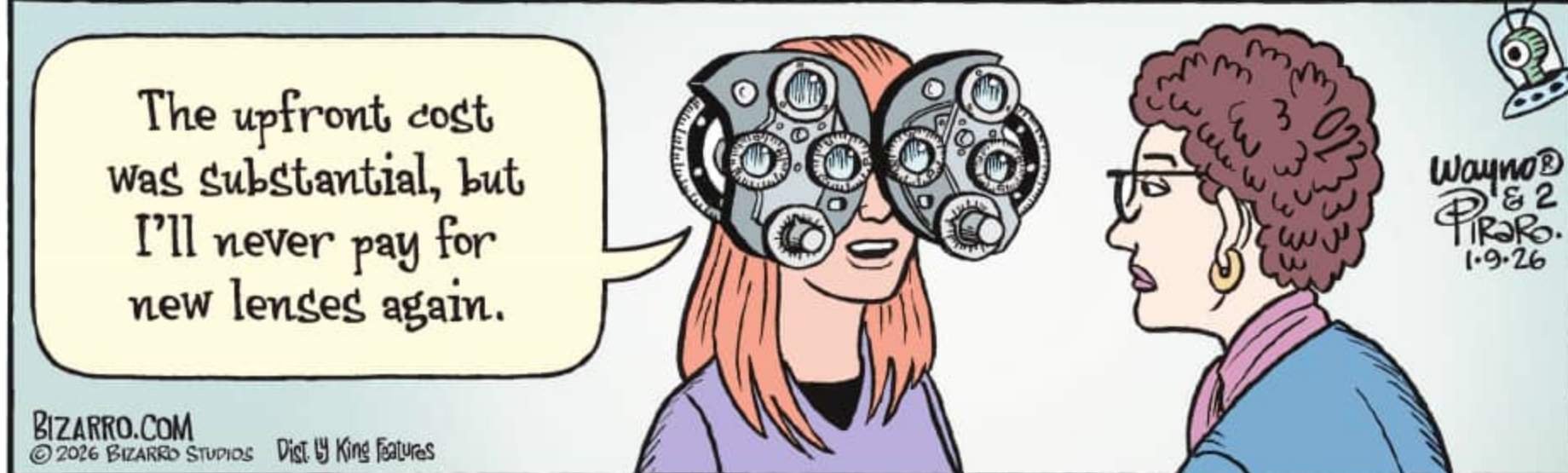
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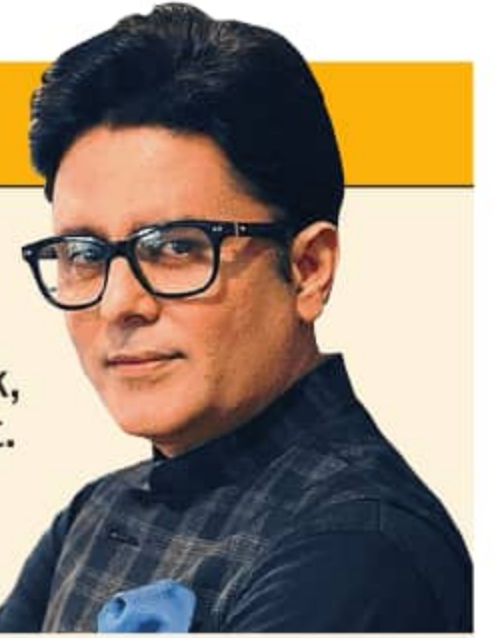


Mutts



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If it's your birthday today

Your birthday ushers in a year rich with opportunity, movement, and thoughtful transformation. Travel expands your outlook, possibly through work, learning, or spontaneous escapes. Love feels nurturing, passionate, and honest. Finances strengthen through practical discipline. At home, laughter, warmth, and creativity restore balance. Walk forward bravely, accept invitations, and follow the exciting possibilities waiting across your horizon this coming year.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

You feel cheerful and relaxed today, Aries. Serious decisions may not suit this mood, so focus on enjoying your day and spending time with loved ones.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Negative comments may weigh on you today, Leo. Instead of dwelling on them, spread encouragement and reassurance to those around you who need positivity.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Social interactions dominate your day, Sagittarius. Your communication skills attract new connections, but remain grounded and avoid being swayed by flattery.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Your attention to detail brings recognition today, Taurus. You may notice something others overlook, impressing those around you and possibly leading to career advancement.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today calls for self-care, Virgo. Reflect on your recent efforts and allow yourself time to rest. Prioritising your well-being helps restore balance.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

People may seek your guidance today, Capricorn. While offering advice generously, remember to follow your own wisdom and treat yourself with patience.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Trust may come easily today, Gemini. Stay open to new connections but remain cautious of overly flattering words. Balance openness with thoughtful judgment.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Your energy and dedication stand out at work today, Libra. Superiors may notice your efforts, rewarding the commitment you've shown recently.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

You may guide someone younger today, Aquarius. Offer advice gently and supportively, helping them learn valuable lessons from your experiences.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Procrastination may slow you down today, Cancer. Try completing important tasks earlier rather than delaying them, especially if deadlines or studies demand attention.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Be kinder to yourself today, Scorpio. Instead of focusing on flaws, acknowledge your achievements and celebrate the progress you've made.

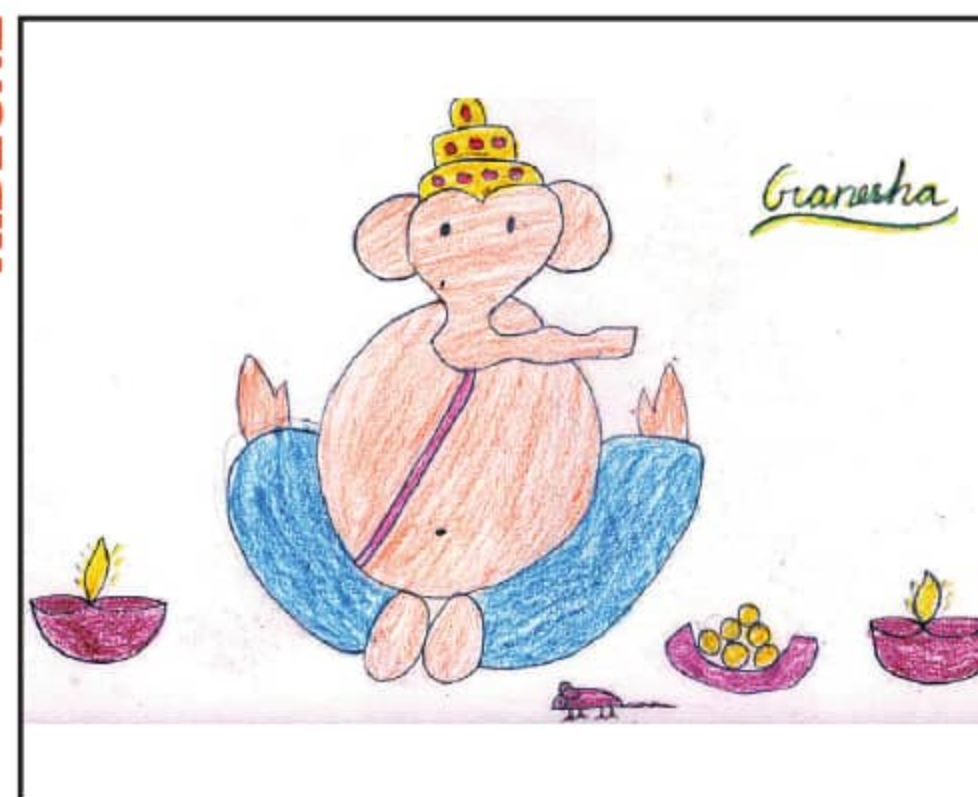


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

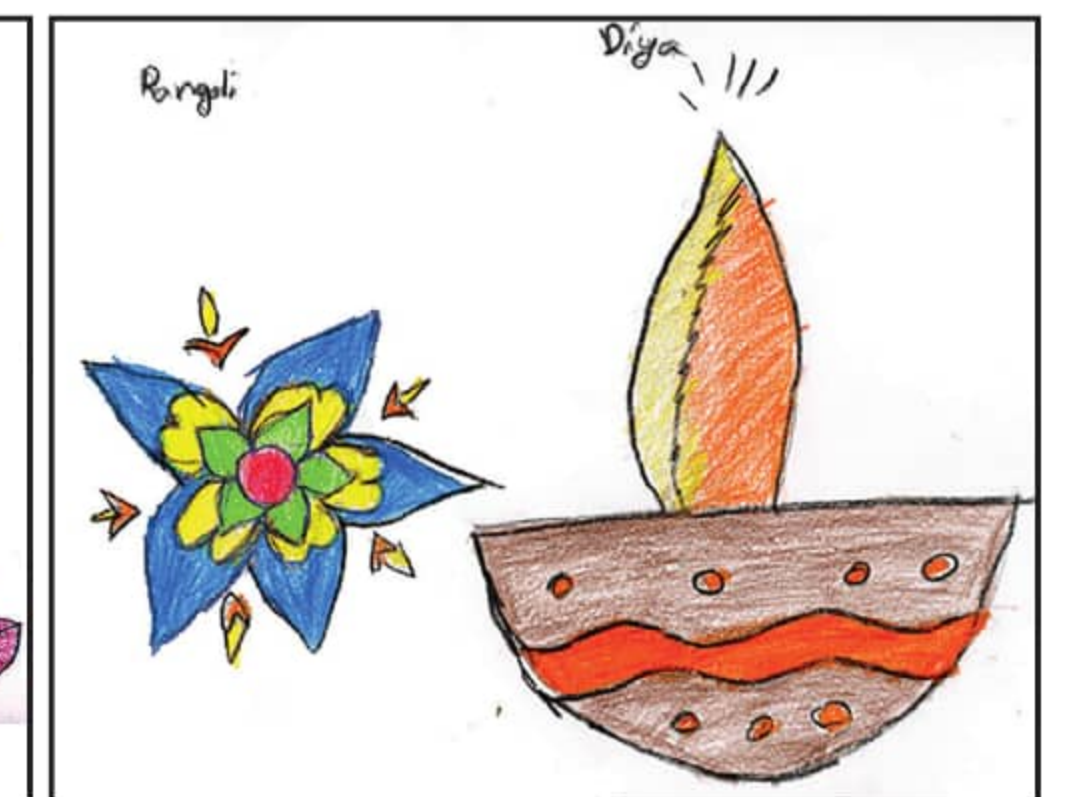
A financial surprise may brighten your day, Pisces. Handle it wisely, consider saving or investing rather than spending impulsively to secure future stability.

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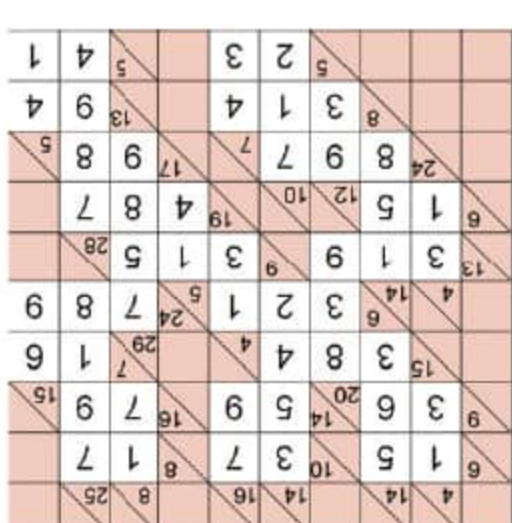


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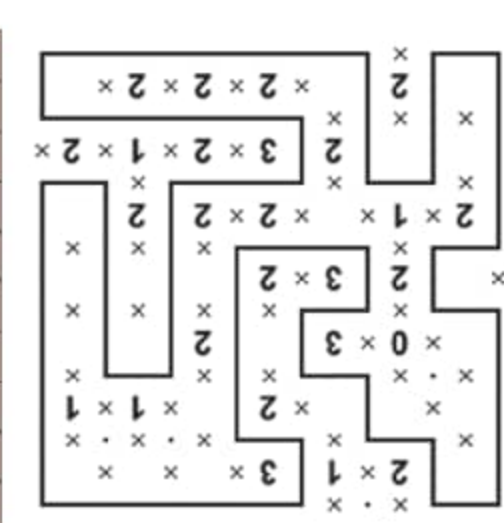
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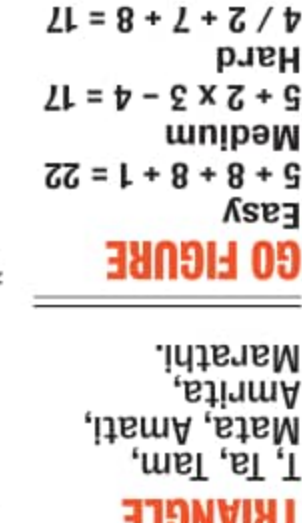
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LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



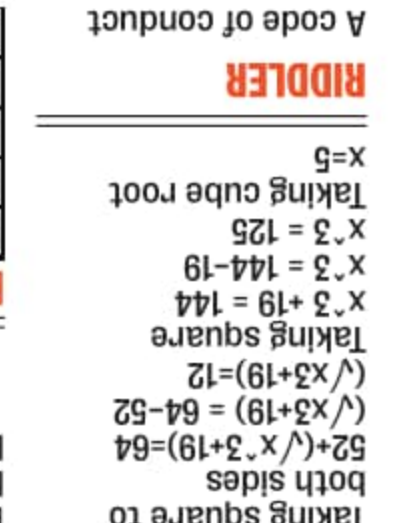
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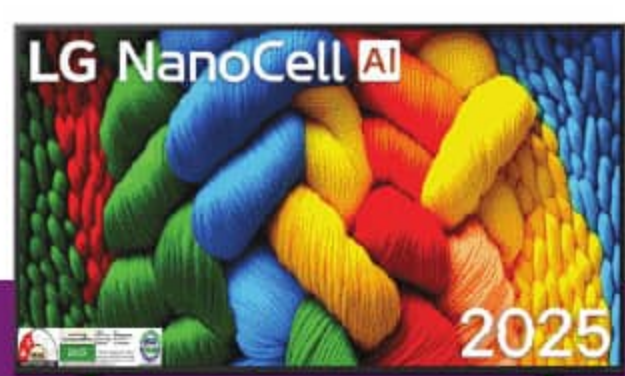
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